



# **Florida Guardian ad Litem Program**

---

## **Long-Range Program Plan Fiscal Years 2006-07 through 2010-11**

**September 30, 2005**

Angela H. Orkin, Executive Director  
600 South Calhoun Street  
Suite 154  
Tallahassee, FL 32399  
Phone: 850-922-7213 Fax: 850-922-7211

---

## Table of Contents

---

Agency Mission	3
Agency Goals	4
Agency Objectives	4
Agency Outcomes and Performance Projection Tables	4
Linkage to Governor's Priorities	6
Trends and Conditions Statement	7
Agency Workforce Plan – LRPP Exhibit I	8
Performance Measures and Standards – LRPP Exhibit II	9
Performance Measure Assessment - LRPP Exhibit III	10
Performance Measure Validity and Reliability – LRPP Exhibit IV	11

---

## **Agency Mission**

---

### **Advocacy, Partnership, Innovation**

*We are a network of professional staff and community advocates partnering to provide a strong voice in court and positive systemic change on behalf of Florida's abused and neglected children.*

---

## Agency Goals, Objectives and Projection Tables

---

**GOAL 1:** To provide effective advocacy for all of Florida's abused, abandoned and neglected children

**Objective 1:** Represent 25,922 children

**PRIMARY SERVICE OUTCOME:**

**Outcome:** Average number of children represented

FY 2000-01 BASELINE	FY 2005-06	FY 2006-07	FY 2007-08	FY 2008-09	FY 2009-10
N/A	24,285	25,922	25,922	25,922	25,922

**GOAL 2:** Advocate for timely permanency for children

**Objective 1:** Provide representation for children until permanency is achieved

**PRIMARY SERVICE OUTCOME:**

**Outcome:** Percentage of cases discharged after DCF supervision is terminated

FY 2000-01 BASELINE	FY 2005-06	FY 2006-07	FY 2007-08	FY 2008-09	FY 2009-10
N/A	33%	36%	39%	42%	45%

---

## Agency Goals, Objectives and Projection Tables

---

**GOAL 3:** Increase number of volunteer advocates for children

**Objective 1:** Increase number of new volunteers

**PRIMARY SERVICE OUTCOME:**

**Outcome:** Number of new volunteers certified as a GAL

FY 2000-01 BASELINE	FY 2005-06	FY 2006-07	FY 2007-08	FY 2008-09	FY 2009-10
N/A	1,450	1,464	1,479	1,493	1,508

---

## **Linkage to the Governor's Priorities**

---

Governor Jeb Bush has established priorities for his administration to better serve Floridians. As shown below, direct linkages exist between the priorities of Governor Bush and the goals set out in this plan.

### **#1 – Improve Education**

**GOAL 1:** To provide effective advocacy for all of Florida's abused, abandoned and neglected children

### **#2 – Strengthen families**

**GOAL 1:** To provide effective advocacy for all of Florida's abused, abandoned and neglected children

**GOAL 3:** Increase number of volunteer advocates for children

### **#5 – Create a smaller, more effective, more efficient government**

**GOAL 3:** Increase number of volunteer advocates for children

---

## **Trends and Conditions**

---

To advocate for the best interests of dependent children in Florida, the Program estimates it will as of December 31, 2005 represent 25,922 children. An annual report detailing the Program's progress, performance, representation provided and plan to represent 100% of Florida's dependent children will be available on the Program's website by October 7, 2005.

### **Agency's Primary Responsibilities and Statutory Authority**

The Guardian ad Litem Program was established in Florida in 1980 to represent the best interests of abused and neglected children involved in court proceedings. There are 21 local Guardian ad Litem programs in the 20 judicial circuits in Florida. On January 1, 2004, the Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office was created to provide the infrastructure to increase functioning and standardization among the existing programs.

Chapter 39, Florida Statutes, addresses proceedings relating to abused and neglected children and requires the appointment of a guardian ad litem for every child. Section 39.8296, Florida Statutes, created the State Office as an independent entity within the Justice Administrative Commission.

The State Office has oversight responsibility for, and provides technical assistance to all guardian ad litem and attorney ad litem programs located within the judicial circuits. Responsibilities include collecting, reporting and tracking reliable case data, reviewing the programs in Florida and in other states, developing statewide performance measures and standards, forming a training committee and developing a training program, reviewing various funding sources, and developing methods to improve delivery of program services.

Our vision is to provide effective advocacy for all of Florida's abused and neglected children. In an effort to fulfill our vision, we are leveraging state, county and private funds to meet the needs of the children we represent.

---

## Exhibit I: Agency Workforce Plan

---

LRPP Exhibit I: Agency Workforce Plan				
Fiscal Years	Total FTE Reductions	Description of Reduction Issue	Positions per Issue	Impact of Reduction
FY 2006 -2007	0			
FY 2007-2008	0			
<b>Total*</b>	<b>0</b>			

\*to equal remainder of target



## Exhibit II: Performance Measures and Standards

[illegible]

## Exhibit III: Performance Measure Assessment

### LRPP Exhibit III: PERFORMANCE MEASURE ASSESSMENT FY 2004-05

Department: Justice Administrative Commission  
 Program: Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office  
 Service/Budget Entity: 213100000  
 Measure: Number of cases assigned to GAL's

**Action:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Performance Assessment of <u>Outcome</u> Measure | <input type="checkbox"/> Revision of Measure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Performance Assessment of <u>Output</u> Measure  | <input type="checkbox"/> Deletion of Measure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adjustment of GAA Performance Standards          |  |

Approved Standard	Actual Performance Results	Difference (Over/Under)	Percentage Difference
11,491	n/a		

**Factors Accounting for the Difference:**

**Internal Factors** (check all that apply):

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personnel Factors           | <input type="checkbox"/> Staff Capacity    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Competing Priorities        | <input type="checkbox"/> Level of Training |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Previous Estimate Incorrect |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Identify) |  |

**Explanation:**

Deleted Performance Measure and replaced with three new measures

**External Factors** (check all that apply):

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resources Unavailable                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Technological Problems |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legal/Legislative Change                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Natural Disaster       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Target Population Change                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Identify)       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> This Program/Service Cannot Fix The Problem         |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Current Laws Are Working Against The Agency Mission |   |

**Explanation:**

**Management Efforts to Address Differences/Problems** (check all that apply):

- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Training  | <input type="checkbox"/> Technology       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personnel | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Identify) |

**Recommendations:**

---

## Exhibit IV: Performance Measure Validity and Reliability

---

### LRPP EXHIBIT IV: Performance Measure Validity and Reliability

**Department:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Program:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Service/Budget Entity:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Measure:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Action** (check one):

- ☐ Requesting revision to approved performance measure.
- ☐ Change in data sources or measurement methodologies.
- ☐ Requesting new measure.
- ☐ Backup for performance measure not previously approved or for which validity, reliability and/or methodology information has not been provided.

**Data Sources and Methodology:**

**Validity:**

**Reliability:**